

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Rehabilitation of Militants

2117. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to recruit surrendered Punjab militants in police and paramilitary forces; and

(b) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Food Subsidy Bill

2118. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India purchases foodgrains for the Central Pool at the Government fixed price;

(b) whether FCI issues grains to public and various agencies at subsidised rates ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether the Food Subsidy Bill is in the increase during the last couple of years ; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central issue prices of wheat and rice for distribution through the targetted Public Distribution System w.e.f. 1.6.97 are as under :

	Rs. per kg.			Wheat
	Common	Rice Fine	Superfine	
B.P.L.	3.50	3.50	-	2.50
A.P.L.	-	6.50	7.50	4.50

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Subsidy on foodgrains represents (i) the difference between the Economic Cost of foodgrains

and their issue prices, and (ii) carrying cost of foodgrains. While economic cost of foodgrains has increased mainly because of increase in the pooled cost of grains as a result of increases in MSP/naked cost of grains, the issue prices have not increased correspondingly. There have also been increases in the carrying cost because of increase in interest charges and increase in freight rates etc. Following important steps have been taken/are being taken by the FCI to reduce/contain the economic cost and carrying cost:

- (i) Making continuous efforts to achieve the average capacity utilisation of 75% even though the procurement of grains is seasonal.
- (ii) Adhering to the procurement and movement ratio norm of 1:1.35 as fixed by Government to reduce the expenditure on freight.
- (iii) Non-filing up of entry level posts to reduce the administrative cost and increase productivity;
- (iv) Making continuous efforts to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains ;
- (v) Release of stocks in open Market at prices above the Central Issue Price for PDS.

[Translation]

#### Central Assistance for Agriculture in Haryana

2119. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided assistance to Haryana for the development of Horticulture and Floriculture since 1990 ;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided by the Government during each of the last three years ;

(c) whether the State Government has utilised this financial assistance for which it was provided;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether his Ministry has conducted any monitoring to ensure proper utilisation of Central assistance ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Assistance to the State under the Central schemes for development of horticulture is being provided since 1990. Assistance for the Central Scheme of Floriculture is being provided since the commencement of the scheme from 1992-93.

(b) to (d) Central assistance of Rs. 518.38 lakhs was provided by the Government of India during the last three financial years i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 to the State Government of Haryana under the Central schemes for development of horticulture in Haryana, against which the state government has reported utilisation of Rs. 604.66 lakhs during the same period, including the utilisation of unspent funds from previous years, under the Central schemes. The year-wise details are as indicated below:

Financial Year	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Funds released by Centre	Funds utilised by State
1994-95	214.72	173.63
1995-96	177.60	173.50
1996-97	126.06	257.53
Total	518.38	604.66

(e) and (f) The utilisation of the assistance under the schemes is being monitored by the Government of India through progress reports to be furnished by the State governments, Area officers meetings, field visits by senior officers of the Government and periodic review meetings.

#### **Drip Irrigation Sets Scheme**

2120. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrear of subsidy is pending with the Government;

(b) the estimated requirement of subsidy during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more additional funds for installation of Drip Irrigation Sets Scheme during the current year ;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the subsidy provided by the Government to small and marginal farmers particularly for those farmers who belong to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is reaching to them;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The allocation for the year 1996-97 has been released to the States in total.

(b) to (d) The allocation of funds for meeting the subsidy towards drip irrigation during 1997-98 is Rs. 82.79 crores, which is higher than allocations for the previous years.

(e) to (g) The Government have directed the State Governments to ensure that a minimum of 25% of the sanctioned amount for drip installation is utilised for the benefit of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the respective States. The concerned State Governments have been further directed to work out the details of subsidy flowing to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes including small, marginal and women farmers on a rational basis after taking into account the local conditions and population of these categories of farmers.

#### **Import of Wheat from Australia**

2121. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import one million tonnes wheat from Australia;

(b) whether steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to review their decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has authorised import upto 2 Million tonnes of wheat during 1997-98. The State Trading Corporation of India has already contracted for importing 1 Million tonnes of wheat from Australia in the first instance.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Use of Diesel Pump Set for Underground Water**

2122. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Members of Parliament for providing subsidy on diesel pump sets used in agriculture in Rajasthan.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which subsidy on diesel pump set is likely to be provided for irrigation purpose indicating the proposed subsidy to be given ?